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 a plurality of chambers in said valve body, each one of said [chambers being associated with one of said] ports opening into an associated one of said chambers;

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 a tortuous network of channels [in communicating between said ports to and channels in said valve body for directing the flow of said liquid through said valve body] in said valve body, each one of said channels extending between two of said chambers to provide communication therebetween;

and

a plurality of diverter valves [located in said valve body, said diverter valves operating to control the flow of said liquid in said valve body, whereby when a predetermined combination of said ports, chambers, channels and diverter valves is actuated, said combination produces a smooth and unobstructed path for said liquid which substantially eliminates dead-legs in said valve assembly] each one of said valves interposed in the path of an associated one of said channels;

wherein liquid entering any one of said ports encounters one of said chambers and sections of three of said channels which lead to three of said diverter valves thereby permitting the valve assembly to be fully drained.

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 11.(AMENDED) A diverter valve assembly for use in a liquid chromatography system, comprising:

a unitarily formed valve body having a plurality of chambers and a tortuous network of passageways extending therethrough;

at least one inlet port connected to one of said plurality of chambers for receiving the flow of a liquid into said valves assembly;

at least one outlet port connected to one other of said plurality of chambers for allowing said

liquid to exit said valve assembly;

at least two additional ports connected to two other of said plurality of chambers for allowing the flow of liquid already in said valve assembly to exit and reenter said valve assembly without exiting into said chromatography system; and

a plurality of diverter valves interposed between said plurality of chambers and ports, [whereby liquid flowing through said valve assembly is common to at least two of said plurality of diverter valves, said liquid following a smooth and unobstructed path through said valve assembly which allows] wherein fluid entering any one of said ports encounters one of said chambers and sections of three of said channels which lead to three of said diverter valves thereby permitting a complete flushing of said valve assembly [thereby eliminating dead-legs].

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein.

REMARKS

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) allegedly because they don't show a path which substantially eliminates deadlegs in the valve assembly as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

This objection is no longer applicable in view of the cancellation of this subject matter